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The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.

"Islamic Jihad has gone digital" (Rep. Franks)



Last week, the Shin Bet, known as the 'Shabak' - an elite Israeli security unit, thwarted a major series of attacks in Israel, including one on the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. It has been widely reported that three Muslim men - one from east Jerusalem and the other two from the West Bank, were recruited, radicalized and trained to perpetrate what would have been a major massacre. What stands out even more of particular interest is not their capacity, nor intent to carry out these attacks, but on how they were indoctrinated and celled.

Radicalization is not a new phenomenon, in fact, it is centuries old. Counter-terror experts have intelligently framed for policymakers and academics alike the process of Islamic radicalization; "from Da'wa to Jihad." The process of Islamic radicalization takes place in enclaves and communities the world over, including in America and even Israel, but what is alarming about this cell's development is that it did not take place in a Mosque, or a Da'wa center, but over the internet.

The aforementioned case poses a grave concern to the entire human family, because **all the terrorist need is a personal computer, internet access, and a Skype account to acquire the know-how on unleashing the most heinous and cowardly of acts.** From bomb making videos to developing a terror cell, these three Al-Qaeda operatives mastered all of the abilities, over the internet, to be only one step away from going violently viral.

We must remind ourselves the 'War on Terror' is evolving with the very developments of modern technology, hence "digital jihad," which radical Islam ironically condemns. This incredible operation by the Shin Bet demonstrates to all of us how vital and essential cyber security has become, as our dearest ally in the world has known for some time. While this President has claimed Al-Qaida is on the path to defeat, the events Israel reminded us last week they are fully functional and operational and are becoming more technically advanced. We must always remain not one step ahead but ten.